

fort was spent with her daughter Annie who had two sets of twins in two years.

Jane worked in the Primary and also the Relief Society in the various wards where the family lived.

THE ROOKER FAMILY LINE



Samuel McRae Rooker was born October 5, 1813 at Yorks, South Carolina. His father, Jennings Rooker, immigrated from Ireland. Samuel moved to Mississippi as a young man and married Amelia Woolridge Hundley (her second marriage) on August 5, 1835.

John Bunyon Rooker was born April 25, 1840 in Nuxubee County, Mississippi. A short time later the family moved to Texas after the Mexican-Texas war and took up land. As the tempest began to brew which precipitated the Civil War, Samuel and a few other close friends felt they wanted no part in the fighting; so they sold or gave away their land and slaves and left for the west, having heard of the settling of Oregon, Utah and California. They arrived on Cherry Creek, Colorado, and camped on what is now known as Denver the spring of 1858. They decided to stay for awhile as Mrs. Elinor Hundley was soon to have a baby. This son, named Jefferson Hundley, is claimed by the family to be the first white child born in the Denver vicinity.

Samuel and his son, John, then a young man of 18 years, built a log cabin and have been credited in official Denver history of building the first house in Denver, then known as Auraria. They were given 16 city lots for this honor.

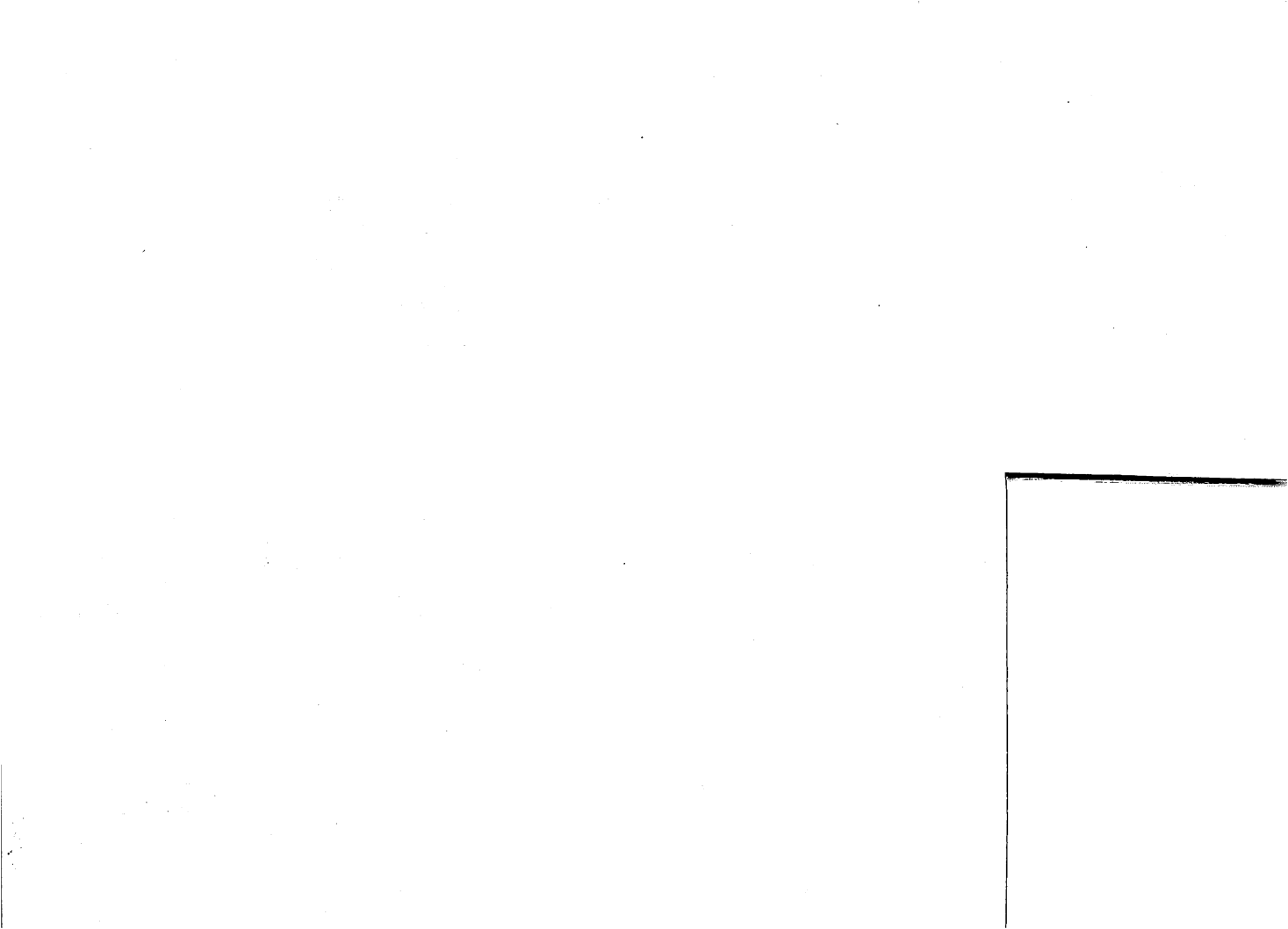
John, a restless young man, engaged in a bit of poker playing during the summer, became involved in a fight over a card game and when the man, Jack O'Neil, came for John with a gun, John was ready and shot

and killed him. A trial was held and John was acquitted. After this shooting, the family left and returned to Texas the late summer or early fall of 1858. When leaving they traded their 16 city lots for some horses. They found matters worse than when they left so immediately returned to Denver. A party of six or eight families decided to go west again by wagon and during the early winter went over south pass in Colorado and arrived at a fort in Springville, Utah late in 1858. It was while at Springville that John met his wife-to-be, Mary Elizabeth Smith, born in Pottowettomy County, Iowa, October 6, 1851. They were married at Heber, March 7, 1866.

After checking the land settlement possibilities in the Heber Valley, Samuel decided to go there and was among the first settlers in the old Fort Heber settlement, building a cabin there either the summer of 1859 or spring of 1860. The family moved to Center Creek and Samuel died and was buried there November 16, 1894.

It is regrettable that so little was recorded of the life of Samuel Rooker in the Heber Valley. Even the date of his death has been lost but love for peace and harmony among men made him a good neighbor and a tireless worker for the welfare of his family.

John Rooker joined the Latter-day Saint Church, but was never active. His life was filled with disappointments for his family, as he was a constant user of liquor and spent a great deal of his time gambling. He was, however, an indulgent, kind-hearted and generous husband and father. Perhaps too much so for the good of himself and family. John B. Rooker died at Center while walking home from a visit to his daughter's, Verna R. Blake Allison, home on September 18, 1908. Six children were born of this marriage, John, James, Mary, Sarah, Verna and Thomas.





Shown in this photograph are members of the Wasatch Stake MIA Board in 1908. Seated in front, left to right, are J. Robert Price, Alfred (John) Bond and Moroni Moulton. Seated in the center row are Christena Montgomery Smithers, Minnie Averett Cummings, J. T. (Tom) Roberts, Eliza Jeffs Rasband and Mina Murdock Broadbent. On the back row are Mary Ann Price, Emily S. Coleman, Elfreda Japerson Remund, Lawrence B. Duke, H. Percy McMullin, Martha Jane Duke Rooker and Annie Hasler Smith.

Murdock as counselors and Margaret Crook as secretary. They served together until 1915 when Josephine M. Broadbent became president, and chose Donna Montgomery and Ida B. Wootton as counselors and Ruby Duke as secretary.

It was 1927 when the next reorganization came, with the appointment of Jennie W. Broadbent as president. Counselors to her before she was released in 1935 were Lula Clegg, Lillie Moulton, Crissie Duke and Thelma Wootton. Annie Clyde was secretary.

Thelma Wootton became president in 1935 and had as counselors Kate Clyde and Arvilla Wootton Ritchie. Virginia Christensen later became a counselor, and Annie Clyde continued as secretary.

The next change came in 1941 when Juventa Hamblin was called as president. Her counselors were Dove McAfee and Marvel Murdock. Annie Clyde again was named secretary and when she was released in 1945 concluded 18 years as stake secretary.

Becoming president in 1945 was Lola Curry, with Rae Barnard and Florence Anderson as counselors and May Calderwood as secretary.